

Date Initially Entered Military Service (DIEMS) and Retirement Plan Eligibility

DIEMS (pronounced DEEMs) is a relatively new entry in each service members' personnel file. The DIEMS date determines which of three retired pay plans a soldier is eligible for and provides information on eligibility for the Career Status Bonus (CSB)/REDUX retired pay option. The three options are CSB, which is the normal 50% retirement at 20 years; REDUX, where the soldier selects a \$30,000 bonus at 15 years with the stipulation being that at 20 years the soldier retires with 40% of base pay; or Choice, meaning that you still have time to make the decision at the 15-year mark. The DIEMS date is the earliest date of enlistment, induction, or appointment in a regular or reserve component of a uniformed service as a commissioned officer, warrant officer, or enlisted member. A DIEMS date may be the same as or earlier than the basic active service date (BASD) or basic pay entry date (BPED). The DIEMS date should not be later than either of these dates, though. Some situations where the DIEMS date will differ from the BPED include:

- 1) Academy graduate - The DIEMS date is the date the soldier entered the academy.
- 2) ROTC - The DIEMS date is the date the soldier began a ROTC scholarship program or enlisted as a Reserve member in the Senior ROTC program, whichever is earlier.
- 3) Break in service - The DIEMS date is the date the soldier initially became a member of a uniformed service, any branch or component, even if the soldier had a break in service and reentered at a later date.

4) Delayed Entry Program - The DIEMS date is the date the soldier signed up for the delayed entry program, not the date the soldier came on active duty. The DIEMS date has been printed on the Leave and Earnings Statements (LEs) since March 2001. Soldiers should look at their LEs to verify their own DIEMS date. If this date is not correct, soldiers should visit their servicing Personnel Service Battalion (PSB) with supporting documents to make the correction. Soldiers who may be eligible for CSB/REDUX should verify and update their DIEMS immediately. Listed below are the most common categories and the date used to determine a soldier's DIEMS, as well as the documents the service member must provide to verify and update the DIEMS.

1) Military Academy Graduates – The DIEMS date is the date the soldier entered the academy or four years before the date of RA commissioning, *whichever is earlier*. The PSB will need a copy of the soldier's academic transcript in order to verify the date he/she entered the academy. If the soldier had prior enlisted service in either the active component or reserves, the DIEMS date is the date of enlistment. Prior service soldiers must provide a copy of their DD Form 4 (Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States).

2) ROTC Graduates – The DIEMS date is the date the soldier began a ROTC scholarship program or enlisted as a Reserve member in the Senior ROTC program, whichever is earlier. The PSB will need a copy of DA Form 597 (Army Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship Cadet Contract), DD Form 4 (Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States), or the date of the advance camp as shown on DA Form 61 (Application for Appointment). The soldier's DIEMS date would be the earliest of these three dates.

3) Delayed Entry Program (DEP) – The DIEMS date is the date the soldier signed the contract for the delayed entry program, not the date the soldier came on active duty. The DIEMS is the date the individual signed DD Form 4 (Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States).

4) Direct Commission or Delayed Commissioning Program - Use the date of signature on DA Form 71 (Oath of Office – Military Personnel). If the soldier had prior enlisted service in either the active component or reserves, the DIEMS date is the date of enlistment. Prior service soldiers must provide a copy of their DD Form 4 (Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States).

5) Break in Service – The DIEMS date is the date the soldier initially became a member of an uniformed service, any branch or component, even if the soldier had a break in service and re-entered at a later date. Soldier must provide a copy of DD Form 4 (Enlistment/ Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States) or any of the above-mentioned documents.

Remember, the sole purpose of the DIEMS date is to establish the retirement pay plan. Soldiers eligible for CSB/REDUX must ensure their DIEMS date is reflected correctly before making their retirement pay election. Other soldiers can update their DIEMS at their next periodic records review. All supporting documents necessary to update the DIEMS date should be available through OMPF On-Line (<https://etransserv.erec.army.mil/>).

For more information on DIEMS and CSB/REDUX, visit the Army Retirement Services Website at www.odcsper.army.mil/retire, or call the theater POC at 8th PERSCOM (724-7916).

Captains to be promoted at 38 months

The Army will promote officers earlier to the grade of captain, beginning in October. The new policy will take effect in October with a gradual implementation. Officers promoted to captain in November will have 40 months of service, instead of the current 42 months. Those promoted in December will have 39 months.

A new captain's board is scheduled to meet in November. Those promoted in the spring will have 39-40 months of service and by June the new policy should be fully implemented with all promotions at 38 months. The Fiscal Year 2002 Defense Authorization Act authorized the Army to promote officers to captain after just 36 months of service, but Army leaders determined that 38 months would help solve the shortage and still allow lieutenants developmental time as platoon leaders.

The congressional authorization for early promotions to captain has a sunset clause and expires Oct. 1, 2005. At that time, leaders will need to reassess whether early promotions.